

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSC-01 OMB-01 AID-05 CIEP-01

EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /084 W

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R 171230Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3439

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CE

SUBJ: SRI LANKA CABINET RESHUFFLED

REF: COLOMBO 2854

1. PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE RESHUFFLED CABINET
SEPT 17, FIFTEEN DAYS AFTER OUSTING OF
TROTSKYITE LANKA SAMA SAMAJA PARTY (LSSP) FROM
UNITED FRONT COALITION GOVERNMENT.

2. ONLY NEW ADDITIONS TO CABINET ARE S.K.K.
SURIYARACHCHI, FORMERLY DEPUTY MINISTER OF
INDUSTRIES AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS, IN NEW PORTFOLIO
OF FOOD, CO-OPERATIVES AND SMALL INDUSTRY, AND
RATNASIRI WICKREMANAYAKE, FORMERLY DEPUTY MINISTER
OF JUSTICE AS MINISTER OF PLANTATION INDUSTRIES.
IN OTHER MOVES, K.B. RATNAYAKE, MINISTER OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SPORTS, WAS GIVEN TRANSPORT

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PORTFOLIO MINUS AVIATION. GEORGE RAJAPAKSE TOOK OVER

HEALTH MINISTRY IN ADDITION TO DUTIES AS MINISTER OF FISHERIES. S.S. KULATILLAKE, FORMERLY MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS, SWITCHED PORTFOLIOS WITH T.BGA TENNEKON, FORMERLY MINISTER OF SOCIAL SERVICES. T.B. ILANGARATNE ADDED PORTFOLIOS OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS WHILE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CO-OPERATIVES AND INTERNAL MARKETING STRUCTURE WAS REMOVED FROM HIS MINISTRY OF TRADE. W.P.G. ARIYADASA, FORMERLY MINISTER OF HEALTH, BECAME MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT. MINISTRY OF CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS WAS ABOLISHED.

3. COMMUNIST PARTY (MOSCOW WING) RETAINS ITS ONE CABINET MEMBER, PIETER KEUNEMAN, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION. FELIX DIAS BANDARANAIKE GAVE UP MINISTRY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND HOME AFFAIRS BUT CONTINUES TO HOLD KEY FINANCE PORTFOLIO TAKEN FROM LSSP LEADER N.M. PERERA, AS WELL AS JUSTICE PORTFOLIO. WE DISCERN NO MAJOR SHIFT OF POWER WITHIN SLFP IN THIS CABINET RESHUFFLE ALTHOUGH FELIX BANDARANAIKE'S POSITION HAS BEEN ENHANCED AS RESULT OF EVENTS OF PAST SEVERAL WEEKS.
VAN HOLLEN

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